SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S GARDEN MAGAZINE SINCE 1909

California GARDEN

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DEC.-JAN.
Vol. 54, No. 6
1963-64

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COVER STORY

Front Cover — The Persian tile effect of our front cover is in keeping with one of the key articles in this holiday issue. Amy J. Wormser, who wrote Babylon to Bonsai that starts on Page 8, also did the drawing for the article. The one on the cover is a rendering from a Kangra Valley painting of two women in a Persian garden many centuries ago.

Back Cover — The finest choice of conifer specimens in San Diego can be found in the Presidio Park where winding drives take you past a wide variety. Chauncy Jerabek takes readers on a tour of the trees that have become synonymous with the holiday season. The tour starts on Page 11.

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Remember your Dec. - Jan. garden chores

DECEMBER is a busy month, so much to be accomplished in three weeks, the fourth week for recuperation.

The bulbs are planted, the Sweet Pears are in bloom, the Stocks and Snaps are ready for cutting.

Visitors are amazed at the beautiful display of bloom in your winter garden and can hardly believe we ever have winter. Even the Bermuda grass, which is supposed to be dormant, is a lush green; it seems impossible.

HOLIDAY CHEER

Is your garden in bloom? Or have you waited until the days grow shorter and the nights colder before planting? We do have planting seasons which conflict with patio parties, beaches and vacations so it is little wonder gardening is seldom timed to guarantee a spectacular show of bloom when our parties need uplifting through the holiday season.

Fortunately nothing is lost; the plants will bloom in due time and to those who wait until the plants are seen in bloom find that another season has passed them by. It is always a pleasure to visit a garden that is different, where the owner is proud to show the Clarkia, Godetia, Sapigolosis, Forget-me-not, Glorious Daisies, Twinkle Dwarf Phlox, Floral Carpet Snapdragons, and the new Candytufts.

The array of new seed for spring and summer will be in stock in January. Started plants are limited to the few well-known varieties; the selection seems to grow smaller each year due to the economy which finds both members of the family working, necessitating a very low maintenance garden. Again we find we must rely on the seed rack in our local nursery if perennials are to be used and perennials are the logical choice for busy people.

CHANGING STYLES

Styles change in gardening, smaller lots increase the demand for smaller fruit trees, shade trees, shrubbery. Small fruits and berries, Rhubarb, Artichokes, conifers and fruit trees are ready to set out now.

Invariably, gardeners are plagued with plant failures which can be attributed to manure in the root zone. Use a planter mix in setting out bare root stock, mix it with the soil, set the plants at the proper level and with normal watering new growth appears in a few weeks.

Each year we find new varieties of plants; they have been tried and proven to be successfully grown in this area.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

DECEMBER, 1963
JANUARY, 1964

VOLUME 54 NO. 6

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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BOOK TOURS

Conducted by Alice Mary Greer

Nature, Art and Flower Arrangement; Cyphers, Emma Hodkinson, Hearthside Press, N. Y. 1963. $4.95.

If you are looking for a flower arrangement book with a high-class format, glamorous illustrations, large, easily-read print, this is not your choice. Neither will it be your choice if you desire a text that gives a rule-of-the-thumb direction how to copy, saying, "anyone can make good arrangements." Hearthside has turned out a medium-priced book, the seventh in the field of flower arrangement by Emma Cyphers, that on first inspection lacks eye appeal, ability to stir the imagination or creative desire. However, further appraisal changes one's mind after one reads the text, which aims to familiarize the reader with nature's designs and methods.

It is then that we find that Mrs. Cyphers has tapped the underlying philosophy and principal of all art that has been dominant in the teachings and work of arrangers of all eras and countries from the time of the fifth century Buddhist priests to the experts of modern times, John Taylor Armes and Norman Edwards.

She places flower arrangement in its due place amongst the great creative fine arts of mankind, which, in truth, are related through nature. She believes that excitingly creative arrangements must go hand in hand with observation but not with observation with the eye alone.

"Seeing is the culmination of all senses," she writes, a thought taken right out of the teachings of the ancient Buddhist priests. "To see is an unprovable part of living, for you see not only what things are, but what you are, what you think, what you feel; what you see is no more and no less than what you are. From such observation comes inspiration, the creative impulse, the most illusive feature in a work of art."

The laws of nature are basic to art. Nature is not art. Nature represents inborn character, while art, a product of man, is a result of planning. Art, therefore, is an activity. Where nature stops, the artist begins.

Mrs. Cyphers maintains that nature contains all elements of all design, just as a keyboard contains all notes of all music. To know her internal as well as her external qualities brings awareness of the relationship between creativity and man's personality. This will involve the arranger with an instinctive urgency to communicate personal insights through more creative arrangement forms.

We must not take nature for granted. To be worthy of her we must approach her clothed with humility and reverence. Nature is man's eternal inspiration providing us with sight and insight, perceptual vision and conceptual vision.

We must see form, shape and line in nature; symmetry, simplicity, suitability, function, line, hue, contrast, light and shadow, texture, mood, atmosphere, dominance, contrast, scale, balance, rhythm, unity, variety. All of these aspects of nature we must perceive with a sharper eye, "a witness to the fact that nature, man and art can meet on common ground, and there will be a "thrilling relationship with that thing we call nature," and our flower arrangement, into which we have attempted to inculcate those natural perceptions will reflect that relationship.

Many valuable practical suggestions about techniques, tricks of the trade, containers, props, accessories and handling of plant material are incidentally woven into the text. A serious-minded flower arranger should add this volume to her library.

—A. M. G.

50 YEARS AGO
in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

THE GARDEN, with every gardener in the West, hails with relief the passing of the year 1913. It has lived up to every devilment that goes with the evil reputation attaching to the final two figures. It did those things it ought not to have done, and left undone those which it ought to have done to such an alarming extent, that the nervous ones among us are half afraid of 1914, and ask, "Will it rain? Will it freeze? Will it scorch?"

But the only answer is a derisive echo, except, perhaps, the negligible prophecy of some who deem they have inside information. Faith is the salt that savours every deed and without it no one should presume to attempt to garden, or do anything else for the matter of that, but the garden is our shooting preserve.

A certain quality of faith inheres in the very act of planting seed, faith that it will sprout and grow to fruition, and so it is obviously the sensible thing to face 1914 with faith that it will prove kind and help us to bring forth fruit in good season, remembering the old adage that though we cannot command success, we can do better —deserve it.

A. D. Robinson

* * *

Once again at Christmas time The Garden makes a plea for the little firs and pines that yearly fall victims to our Christmas tree habit. That the sacrifice of a little tree should help to spread "peace on earth and good will towards men" is a fiction. We still hang to the Christmas tree because to do so is less trouble than to think up something else for the children. Then there are hundreds of trees in tubs in Balboa Park to show that we might keep the custom and the tree.

A. D. Robinson

* * *

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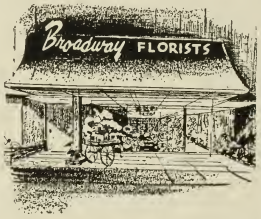

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California Garden

DECEMBER, 1963-JANUARY, 1964

. . . in which we close the old and open the new year with . . . . . .

A 5,000 YEAR TREK THRU GARDENING HISTORY . . . . . A LOOK AT CONIFERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND EVERY OTHER SEASON . . . . WAYS TO BRING COLOR TO THE HOLIDAY TIME . . . . . EROSION CONTROL IDEAS THAT WILL KEEP AWAY THE FIRE BUG . . . . . AND MORE FOR THE DIGGING . . . . . .

Carved design from a jasper cylinder—Assyrian ladies in a garden

BABYLON TO BONSAI

By AMY J. WORMSER

Illustrations by the Author

THE STORY OF gardening is long. And as Richardson Wright so gracefully puts it:

"Along the road we meet a motley host of men and women—kings and soldiers and mariners; scientists, explorers, priests and nuns; humble peasants and lordly rulers; rugged fellows and petulant queens; and the shadowy ghosts of gods and goddesses, and the shy spirits that haunted hilltops and dusky forest glades and danced across the gentle slopes of sunlit rolling meadows long ago."

Out of this calvalcade, one tries gropingly, frustratedly to fashion a tale of man's endless urge to surround himself with the comfort and peace of natural beauty.

We catch the phrases down the centuries:

"Beside the still waters," and "I raised thee up under the apple tree;"

And above all, Solomon's beautiful song:

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

"The flowers appear on the earth; and the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;

"The fig tree putteth forth her green figs and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell."

And finally that lovely:

"I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished and the pomegranate budded."

5,000 YEARS OF GARDENING HISTORY

From King Solomon to the hanging gardens of Persia You can trace the growth of the formal landscaping

IT IS indeed a long time ago that King Solomon went down in his nut orchard and lovingly inspected his pomegranates.

But before civilization could develop Solomon's garden, innumerable years—some 5,000 that we can search through and many more we can only guess at—had gone before.

The passing centuries saw the Stone Age family cultivate a tiny, protected parcel of land they called their own where they raised a season's crop; the great ages of intermingling cultures arrived, the ages of stealing and of bartering goods, ideas, land, slaves and plants.

Plants may well have been the first articles of commerce. Gardening was by no means a by-product of the developing cultures of our many ancestors. The intentional cultivation of a plant was the beginning of all culture.

Yet none of man's developing skills can be recorded without following his skills in many other fields. In the valley between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, Stone Age woman made a tiny hole with her digging stick and put in a wild seed; the first intentional growing of a plant. Man's earlier skill as a potter records for us this birth of the garden. The symbols with which he decorated his bowls show us as clearly as could the written word; lake, reservoir, canals, goats drinking, man protecting his irrigated fields. Man had been a good potter, a good husbandman, a good gardener for a long time, when 5,000 years before the time of Christ he reverently recorded his story in hard baked ancient clay. In the Louvre today we may see, too, the work of a gifted, nameless Pre-Sumerian sculptor who carved a lovely alabaster vase in dedication to a goddess of fertility; beautifully proportioned bands reveal a flowing river, upright ears of wheat, a procession of sheep, a procession of men carrying baskets overflowing with fruits and vegetables in the "Land Between the Rivers," the Euphrates Valley.

Gardening was a good profession 1,000 years before Moses. A pictograph biography incised on a limestone slab records the story of a baby, who, like Moses, was found floating in a rush basket.

"The river carried me away to Akki the Irrigator. Akki the Irrigator made me a gardener, and because my services were pleasing to the Goddess Ishtar, I was made a king." So a gardener king grew to spread the magnificent Sumerian culture far beyond the Tigris and Euphrates.

Egypt, where for the first time we can see truly accurate reports of garden design, reflects 3,000 years of Mesopotamian experience and learning. The Egyptian pharaohs and nobles who lined the walls of their tombs with such delightful garden portraits were the spiritual descendants of our Sumerian gardener king.

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From their delicate tomb paintings, we can wander back through the centuries.

They show high-walled gardens which their owners expected to enjoy in the after life as they had in their life on earth; canals filled by water lifted from the Nile by tall well-sweeps; avenues of sacred Sycamores under which the Soul could rest in the shade when he returned to see the garden he had planted in his lifetime; the garden beds laid out in geometric tidiness; the rectangular pool and rows of date palms and figs; the grape arbors and clumps of papyrus. Safely behind his own high walls, the Egyptian had no desire to look out onto the hot, dry world.

The rich had great artificial lakes for boating parties and festive show. Even the little man had a tee-shaped pond in a small court before his house. Always there must be water in the gardens of the narrow valley between the deserts.

Town house or country villa, the basic pattern of the private Egyptian garden remained the same generation after generation. The trees were neatly clipped and vines tied with care. A covered pergola provided a shady place for dining and resting and for watching the brightly-colored ducks swimming among the lotus blossoms.

The great temples built to honor the multitudinous gods of Egypt and endowed by kings and wealthy citizens —Ramses alone gave 400 temple sites — were the centers or arboretums formed by sacred groves. In the shade, the priests grew herbs like the Christian monks generations later. The Egyptian priests concocted medicines from these herbs which they mixed with ritual and superstitious lore, turning the temple groves into the out-patient clinics and health spas of their day. One papyrus lists more than 700 remedies made from plants that had been imported or grown in the temple groves.

The garden import business reached its high point in the reign of Queen Hapshetsut about 2000 BC, when this ambitious monarch set out to impress the gods with her works.

Egypt had been trading all around the Mediterranean for a long time, but Queen Hapshetsut's expedition

. . . . another great gardening civilization arose in that great wooded area between the Tigris and Euphrates

was a brave one indeed. To embellish the tomb she was building for herself, she ordered an expedition to the Land of Punt, believed to have been located generally in today's Somalia. This required her trusted commander to cross the trackless Arabian Desert to the Red Sea, where he would have to build a ship and sail it clear to the Indian Ocean and to Somaliland and return with her precious cargo.

Her commander set forth with an army of 3,000 men, to each of whom he gave a leather bottle, a carrying pole and 20 loaves of bread. There is no record of how long the trip took, but he did arrive on the shores of the Red Sea where the boat was built. His words oversimplify the enormous task.

"After a great sacrifice of cattle, bulls and ibexes, I dispatched it—and executed the commands of Her Majesty, and brought back all the products I found."

Queen Hapshetsut used the products in the tomb she had built against a high mountain overlooking the Nile, where three huge, collonaded terraces rise one above the other with an approach of enormous ramps lined with rows of sphynxes and acacias. In a corridor off the top terrace she ordered carved the story of her queenly accomplishments and the record of the expedition to the Land of Punt.

In stately bas relief, the story unfolds of trees being dug up with great balls of earth around their roots, of their being carried to the ship by teams of men with their carrying poles and ropes and finally the great, imported trees flourishing in a neat row in their new home, cattle grazing beneath them and offerings to the gods stacked around their trunks. The gods surely must have been impressed.

The rich brown silt washed each year down the Nile was ideal for flower growing and as the demand for flowers increased so did the number of flower farms in the river delta. Vast quantities of flowers were used by the Egyptians in their own festivals. Temples and houses were filled with blossoms. Enormous shipments of flowers were sent to Rome and many other Mediterranean ports.

The rose — first brought to Egypt from Macedonia — grew so well in the Nile delta that it became an important export item. Wreathes were such high fashion at home and abroad that one simply could not be caught dead or alive without one.

Far to the east of Egypt, some 500 years after Queen Hapshetsut built her tomb, another great gardening civilization arose in that great wooded area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. In Babylonia and Assyria, there were no limits of space as in the narrow Nile delta. Distances were vast. Boundless game flourished in lush forests. Princes set aside thousands of acres of the rich country for their own private use as hunting parks. Villas and lodges were built in the depths of the woods with high walls against the encroaching wilds.

Within these walls were repeated the forms of the Egyptian formal garden. Canals radiating from a central pool cut the grounds into geometric patterns of flower, fruit and vegetable beds. Beneath vine-covered pergolas, kings and noblemen rested from the hunt.

They rested, too, from chasing enemies. A finely-executed bas relief of King Assurbanipal shows him lunching in his royal garden reclining in a most regal pose upon a high, carved couch with a lady at his feet, musicians entertaining with pipe and stringed instruments as slaves fan away the flies. Hanging from one of his well-manicured trees is the severed head of an enemy. A pleasure loving people, the Assyrians!

Another type of garden that secured Babylonia's place in any horticultural history was the elegant structure known as the hanging garden.

The greatest of these was the one which is supposed to have been built by a Babylonian king to please his wife, a girl he had spirited away from Media, who languished for her native hills. He built her a green mountain.

Covering an area of about three acres, the king built a stadium-shaped series of wide terraces supported by stout arches. The 16-foot-wide decks were insulated from seepage with layers of lead, another of huge wooden planks, another of tile and finally the soil in which the garden was planted. The columns of the great arches were left hollow and filled with soil, so that trees planted in them had ample root room downward. Chambers under the arches faced the terraces so that the effect must have been similar to that of a modern high-rise garden apartment. Winding walks lead from terrace to terrace where slaves pumped water from the Euphrates, maintaining quantities of blooming shrubs to remind the lonely princess of her green mountain home.

The effort was so successful that it became one of the seven wonders of the world. The lesser nobility were soon building scaled down replicas in their own domains. The fashion of hanging gardens spread to Persia and eventually to Medieval Europe, where we can still see its charming echo today on the terraced island of Isola Bella in Lake Como.

The Babylonians were not the assiduous record keepers the Egyptians were, but their rare cuniforms show that their gardens were adorned with that great all-purpose tree, the date palm, as well as enough sycamore, jasmine, honeysuckle, figs and lilies to waft their fragrances down through the years.

Persia has perhaps the longest and most picturesque garden history of all. From the great ancient parks known as "paradises" to the modern Shahs' palace gardens, their works have been famous. Although it has been Persia's fate to be conquered and re-conquered through the centuries by the likes of Alexander, Tamerlane the Mongol and savage Arab tribes, the influences of the beauty-loving Persians always conquered the conquerors.

The Persian garden was the product of four strong influences, the ancient mythical religion of Zoraster, the Mohammedan Koran, the severe Persian climate and the people of Persia themselves.

The heaven of the Zorastrian religion was a garden with golden paths, pleasure pavilions studded with diamonds and pearls and filled with fruits and fragrant flowers. To reach this heavenly portal, one had to balance his evil deeds with good works and he could labor on civic projects like the digging of canals, the building of aqueducts and fountains and the laying out of public parks for the poor.

The growing of trees was considered

Egyptian 18th Dynasty Mural—Boys in a vineyard

such a sacred occupation, an extra good grade was reserved for those who had never cut down a tree.

The Koran of the Mohammedan religion built upon this bright foundation a heaven of seven paradises, five of which are gardens.

"In each garden shall be two fountains flowing. In each shall be of every fruit, two kinds. The elect shall repose on couches, the lining thereof shall be of thick silk interwoven with gold. . . . There shall be to receive them, beauteous maidens having complexions like rubies and pearls . . . agreeable and beauteous maidens having fine black eyes, who shall be kept in pavilions from the public view."

What better incentive to dash out and build a canal!

The cruel Persian climate had a decided effect upon the gardens of the country. The high table lands are often wind swept and barren with a spring season lasting only a few short weeks. The winters are bitterly cold. The summers bring dreadful heat. So a garden in which the spring could be stretched was a heaven, indeed. Walls to provide shelter from the biting wind and quantities of water to cool the summer days were needed in the rose garden.

The biggest reason for the charm of the Persian gardens, of course, is the people themselves, whose delight in beauty shows in all their works and ways.

All the ancient treatises on horticulture exude a love for the work, from the art of grafting, for which they had a special passion, to fertilizing and curing tree diseases.

The Koran forbad the representation of living creatures, so the skillful artist used his talents in carving, weaving and painting the motifs left to him — flowers and intricate geometric patterns. Wonderfully designed tile—the now famous "Persian blue" —embellished garden walls, terraces and fountains, adding to elaborate pavilions a glitter and sparkle amidst luxuriant foliage. The very essence of the delight the Persians took in their gardens comes to us in their beautiful "garden carpets" and the delicately charming illustrations to hero tales and legends, the "Persian miniatures," which give us our most glorious picture of the Persian Garden.

From ancient times to the Middle Ages, the Persians ignored the wars about them and the migrations across their land, going about loving their gardens, paying their taxes in casks of rose water, gilding the lily and grafting the rose. The Persians leave us with a picture of graceful silken-gowned figures meandering through flower strewn meadows. It is a glimpse of ancient Persia we shall see much later in the water terraces, reflecting pools, long cypress avenues and serene green vistas of the gardens of the Renaissance in Europe.

In the February-March issue, the History of Gardening will trace the efforts of the Romans in horticulture, view their "Centre City consciousness"; go on the Crusades to the Middle East gardens and view Oriental gardens' influences on the modern English garden.

Let's Enjoy Our Christmas Trees For 365 Days A Year

By Chauncy I. Jerabek

The San Diego Tree Man

WHEN the Christmas season comes around our thoughts turn to conifers. No matter what state or country we come from, some evergreens were probably used to decorate our homes at holiday time. From a wide range of pines and cypresses that you might like to plant now for future ornamentation, inside and outside the house, I shall describe 11 varieties that should interest you.

When you read about these trees you may wish to drive around and see them for yourselves. Some samples, but not all of each tree, are located in several parts of San Diego. At the end of this article there are directional tours for Mission Hills and the Peninsula area, but it was only possible to present one tour with a map. That one begins in La Jolla Shores and ends in Pacific Beach. It is hoped that this will be an incentive for a holiday trip in and around our beautiful coastline.

You will note that each tree has a number which will be integrated with a KEY. Later it will serve to identify the conifers with the addresses where they may be found. In many cases the trees selected are outstanding, but others, large and small, are listed to show how they look at different stages, in diverse locations and under various conditions. You will enjoy finding other fine specimens for yourself.

May the fragrant boughs of some of these trees grace your garden next holiday season. If you have taken just one tour I am sure you will give conifers plenty of room to grow.

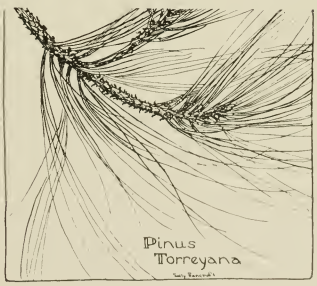
Torrey Pine — natural by the seashore

Torrey Pine—grown under garden conditions through cultivation

(1) TORREY PINE

My list on conifers begins with *Pinus torreyana,* Torrey Pine, because it is indigenous to the extreme northwestern coastal area of our city, known as Torrey Pines Park, and to the sandstone hills of the southwestern part of our border community, Del Mar. The Torrey Pine is also native to the eastern end of Santa Rosa Island off the California coast, due west of Santa Barbara, and to no other place on earth. This pine was discovered by Dr. C. C. Parry in 1850. It was named for Dr. John Torrey, an eminent American botanist.

In its native environment the Torrey or Soledad Pine is short and stocky unless exposed to strong sea winds which turn it into a sprawling picturesque specimen. When grown inland, especially under cultivation, it is a symmetrical tree with regular tiers of stout spreading or ascending branches that give it an open appearance. The main trunk can be a foot or more in diameter. The thick bark is irregularly fissured into broad flat ridges. The long stiff grayish needles are in bunches of fives. Cones are chocolate-brown, broadly ovoid, four to six inches long, hanging on to the tree four to five years. The inner kernel of the winged seed is edible. The tree is an oddity, being the only five-needle nut-pine in the world.



As you study Torrey Pines you will be amazed at their variations but soon you will recognize their over-all grayness and open formation, punctuated by conspicuous roundish cones, whether they are druid types, like the one at the end of Bayard St. in Pacific Beach, or full and rounded like that on Bon Air in La Jolla.

(2) MONTEREY PINE

Another native Californian, *Pinus radiata,* Monterey Pine, is found in the central coastal area. Young trees have rich bright green leaves that darken as they grow older. Their needles, in bundles of threes, sometimes twos, are four to six inches long and very flexible. The trunks have an oddly furrowed dark brown bark that turns almost black with age. Clusters of three to five cones persist on the trees for several years. In time the head of this tree becomes irregular, often picturesque, as the two prostrate examples on Pacific Beach Drive. Always handsome, in their prime they make the marvelous specimens found all over town. Three on Elliott Street above Chatsworth in Loma Portal have been well cared for. The Monterey Pines as street trees on both sides of Oliver Street in Pacific Beach are very attractive.

(3) ITALIAN STONE PINE

Pinus pinea, Parasol or Umbrella Pine, has other names. It is called Italian Stone Pine because the seeds are as hard as stones. To the Italians it is *Pino a pinocchi,* Nut-pine. The Spanish label, *Pino de comer,* means Pine-to-eat. It is a conspicuous feature of the landscape in its native Southern Europe and Northern Africa, especially in Italy.

There are two explanations as to why this tree grows as high as 75 to 100 feet around Rome. One version has it that, due to a shortage of fuel, the lower

Monterey Pine

Italian Stone Pine—natural growth

Pencil drawings by Alice M. Clark

branches were trimmed off for burning. The other idea is that, as the tree grows higher, the older limbs fall off leaving those at the top to give a mop-headed look.

The Stone Pines here are short and stocky, 15 to 30 feet high. A short distance from the ground they fork and send out strong ascending or horizontal branches that form a spreading, rounded umbrella-like crown. The trunk is covered with rugged, deeply fissured bark, thick and reddish gray. The foliage, made up of shiny six-inch green needles, in twos, is very dense along the branches, casting a deep shade. The large red-brown cones are broadly ovoid with short prickles on the scales. The inner kernel of the seed is soft and rich. Poorer people in Italy sometimes grind them into flour.

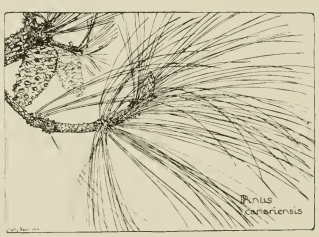
The Stone Pine is used as a street tree on part of La Jolla Shores and La Jolla Boulevard. Three trees just west of there on Via del Norte have been pruned high. It is worth a trip out to 7084 Amherst just to see what a huge mound a Stone Pine is, when left to develop naturally. Drive one block south of El Cajon Boulevard on 70th, turn left on Amherst.

Italian Stone Pines

(4) CANARY ISLAND PINE

Pinus canariensis, from the Canary Islands, is a beautiful upright type often seen in this area. When young it is pyramidal. Like humans, it is apt to spread as it ages. The glaucous blue color of the new needles becomes a light green when mature. Slender and graceful, nine to 12 inches long, they grow in dense droopy tufts of threes at the ends of the branchlets. The cones are cylindric-ovate, four to eight inches long.

We are lucky to have some fine stands of this Canary Pine. There is a block of them in Coronado on Margarita Avenue, some above Catalina in Point Loma, in Presidio Park, on the Sixth Street side of

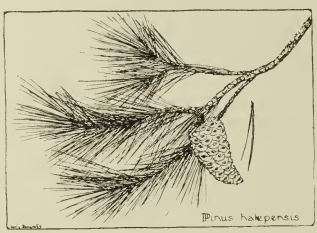


Balboa Park and the stately product of fifty years of care in the Marston gardens. The one that stands out in my mind is the tall solitary sentinel at 4541 Florida, in University Heights. High above a short row of one-story houses, it seems like a finger admonishing the occupants to "always tell the truth." Another excellent specimen can be seen at 2212 Pine St. in Mission Hills.

(5) ALEPPO PINE

Pinus halepensis, Aleppo or Jerusalem Pine, is a native of the Mediterranean basin from Portugal to Palestine. It has been said that no temple in ancient Greece was considered complete until there was a planting of one or more Aleppo Pines around it.

At an early age, flexuous stems, branching from the base, twist in various directions to make a particularly attractive tree. For the first 25 years it is a rapid grower, then its development becomes slower and the lower branches fall away,



leaving a more depressed and rounded tree. The Aleppo has smooth silver-gray bark. Light green needles from two to six inches long grow in pairs. The polished cones, two to three inches long, are conic-ovoid and reddish-brown without prickles. They hang on for many years.

Because it grows so fast, the Aleppo is frequently used for windbreaks, also as an individual specimen where a quick effect is wanted. You must avoid planting it too close to a house. Note the size of the one at Presidio Park, shown in our illustration. An Aleppo at 454 F Street in Coronado has four trunks. The trees around the marker at Scripps Park in La Jolla have been blown into truly tortured forms.

6) GUADALUPE OR BLUE CYPRESS

Another tree of special note is *Cupressus guadalupensis,* a Blue Cypress, native to the rocky Mexican island of Guadalupe, off the coast of Lower California. Early settlers on the islands raised goats. In dry years they let their stock roam at will. On starvation rations they denuded the island of all vegetation, including the

Canary Island Pine

cypress trees. So they are said to be "trees without a country."

The Guadalupe is a stout medium-sized cypress with bluish-green foliage and reddish-brown bark which peels like a cherry tree. The heavy trunk usually divides into many slender erect smooth reddish branches. Not only is the foliage attractive but the tree as a whole is outstanding. It is a slow grower but lives a long life.

As I have never found any seeds on this tree it is probably propagated from cuttings. Growers of nursery stock in San Diego County are passing up a wonderful opportunity if they do not get busy raising and promoting the sale of this attractive cypress. One look at the grand old specimen at 2218 Pine Street in Mission Hills should inspire every gardener to plant it. There is a magnificent Guadalupe in the Library Park in Coronado, many in Balboa Park, a fine one on Lucinda in Point Loma and another on the corner of Dale and Thorn. There should be many more.

(7) MONTEREY CYPRESS

Another California conifer is *Cupressus macrocarpa,* Monterey Cypress. Its only source of origin is in two groves on a narrow strip of California coast just south of Monterey. One group between Cypress Point and Carmel Bay is two miles long. The other stand is on the wild rock-bound headlands of Point Lobos, the southern arm of the bay.

Under cultivation, young trees are compact and narrowly conical with rich green foliage. Older trees become wide and spreading with broad crowns. Cones are sub-globose with reddish seeds. In their native habitat and other windswept sea areas these conifers become distorted into fantastic shapes.

At one time Monterey Cypresses were extensively planted for shade and as hedges, because of their rapid growth. For some years our magnificent old trees have been or are being killed by woodborers. All the beautiful specimens in Mt. Hope Cemetery are gone and practically all of this variety in Golden Hill and the northwestern part of Balboa Park are doomed. Fortunately there are some picturesque trees still to be found on Isabella and F Street in Coronado, on the crown of Point Loma between Catalina and Silvergate, around West Point Loma Blvd. in Ocean Beach and on Park Row Circle in La Jolla. The one that is stark against the sky at Scripps Park is a duplicate of the old ones in Carmel.

(8) ITALIAN CYPRESS

One of the oldest evergreens used for ornamental purposes is the upright Italian Cypress, *Cupressus sempervirens var. stricta.* A native of Greece and most of the Levant, it was later introduced into other parts of Southern Europe and is now scattered throughout the world. These stately cypress are characteristic features of the Italian landscape as they were planted in the early Roman villa gardens. Along the Mediterranean the Italian Cypress grows to the height of 100 feet or more. Few large specimens are seen today but, ages ago, one, 121 feet high and 23 feet around, was found in the Alps.

Ancient Greeks carved statues of their gods from this fragrant reddish wood and laws were engraved on tablets of cypress. Considered as enduring as brass, it was used for doors for St. Peter's Church in Rome. They lasted over 1,000 years. Today cypress is in demand for cabinet work as it takes a beautiful polish and the reddish color never fades. An essential oil is distilled from the shoots of this tree.

Monterey Cypress

In San Diego there are few Italian Cypresses of good size. Because of their narrow columnar habit these evergreens are mostly used as accents especially around public buildings. This cypress should do exceptionally well in this area because it will take poor soil and medium moisture. When pampered with too much food and water it spreads out and loses its tapering charm. There is a nice single on Louisiana, just north of Morley Field and a splendid pair at 3915 Madison, east of Cherokee. A different variety at 3090 Meade Ave. is cone shaped on a bare trunk.

(9) MONTEZUMA CYPRESS

An outstanding tree that few people know is *Taxodium mucronatum,* native of Central America to Guatemala, where it has several names. In Oaxaca, a famous tree in the churchyard at Santa Maria del Tule has a circumference of 160 feet and is 140 feet tall. Some say it is a thousand years old, others think it could be double that. *Quien sabe?* There is a Montezuma Cypress of note in the famous garden of Chapultepec. Another, near Mexico City, is the *Arbol de la Noche Trieste* in the village of Potalela. It is over 100 feet high, with a diameter of 50 feet. The trees in San Diego are small compared to those in their native land.

The Montezuma Cypress has light green foliage. The alternate leaves are flat like a feather and almost as fine. The bark is light brown and the small globose green cones are under an inch in size. In some locations this variety is semi-deciduous.

Two large graceful specimens, set out by Kate Sessions and said to be the finest in Southern California, are on the lawn at 3055 Sunset Blvd. in Mission Hills. The lower horizontal boughs turn up at the tips, but rest on the ground, the way they should always be grown. The tree on the east has one-inch cones studded close together along the branch which ends in sweeping fringes of tiny bead-like buds. The western specimen has fewer and smaller cones. There is another good example of this tree in the picnic area beyond the lower loop of the drive in upper Presidio Park (see cut). To see this tree at close quarters, take the downhill path to the right, beyond the large eucalyptus. There are others in Balboa Park, but few in residence areas.

(10) BALD CYPRESS

Taxodium distichum, known as River, Bald or Swamp Cypress, is native to our own Atlantic coast, from New Jersey to Louisiana and along the Mississippi valley northward to Southern Illinois. In the backwashes of rivers and in swamps rich in vegetative deposits, this tree often grows 120 feet high. Some have been found up to 150 feet. In deep water they produce buttressed bases and cypress "knees," which are conical woody projections from root runners. They are hollow, about a foot thick and extend three to five feet above the water. They help to anchor the tree and to provide aeration when the roots are under water.

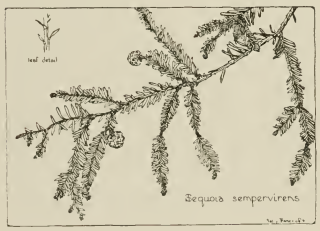
Although wet places are its natural habitat this tree will grow in ordinary soils without forming knees. Here it is apt to be more pyramidal. The Bald Cypress has soft, delicate light-green needles in flat sprays along the sides of the twigs. It is identical, in this respect, to the Montezuma Cypress. The feathery foliage turns a beautiful orange-brown in the autumn, just before shedding. The bark is pale gray with a red-brown tinge. It peels off in small strips. The larger, ball-shaped cones, one-and-a-half inches long and almost as wide, mark the difference between the Bald Cypress and the Montezuma. Like the Canary Pine and the Coast Redwood, this tree will grow again from a cut stump.

The only samples I can find of this tree are two on the corner of Randolph and Montecito Way, in Mission Hills. The front one has larger cones than the one in the rear. In October these both had the same full green foliage and beady bloom as those on Sunset, but, when this is printed, the picturesque branches are apt to be bare.

(11) COAST REDWOOD

Winding up this conifer conference is *Sequoia sempervirens,* Coast Redwood. It is native to an area about 30 miles wide along the Pacific Coast, from central California into southwestern Oregon. Here it is found on coastal mountain slopes and in the sheltered valleys.

Stephan Eudlicher, professor of botany in Vienna, named it in honor of Sequoyah, otherwise known as George Guess, a Cherokee halfbreed who originated the Cherokee alphabet. Sempervirens comes from *semper vivo,* to live forever. This magnificent, fast-growing conifer has drooping or horizontal branches. Dark green needle-like leaves, half to one inch long, in double ranks, grow around the stem and bend out at the sides, making flat sprays at the ends of the twigs. The cinnamon-brown bark is thick, scaly and ridged. The cones are oval, about an inch long and half as broad.



Trees in this area can never convey the grandeur of the redwood in its native habitat.* If you have a tree that does not look good, cut it down to within a foot of the ground. In a short time it will sprout vigorously from the stump. Cut out all except the strongest sucker or leave several shoots for a more compact tree. It has been suggested that the Sierra Redwood does much better in our area. Redwoods can be grown from seed, cutting or burl.

Take a good look at several redwoods on the hill above the path at the foot of Cosoy Way, in Presidio Park. The two best specimen trees among them are Sierra Redwoods. There are more Coast Redwoods in Balboa Park, northeast of the Bowling Green near the bridge. The samples on the tours illustrate that this tree is difficult to grow here. There are two good ones at 2545 Montclair.

*(For a fine full-colored picture of the Coast Redwood as it should look see the National Geographic for November 1963.)

Come Join Our Conifer Caravan

Swing in and out along San Diego's beautiful coastline to spot the following fine evergreens described above.

KEY

(1) Torrey Pine, *Pinus torreyana*
(2) Monterey Pine, *Pinus radiata*
(3) Stone or Umbrella Pine, *Pinus pinea*
(4) Canary Island Pine, *Pinus canariensis*
(5) Aleppo Pine, *Pinus halepensis*
(6) Guadalupe Cypress, *Cupressus guadalupensis*
(7) Monterey Cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*
(8) Italian Cypress, *Cupressus sempervirens var. stricta*
(9) Montezuma Cypress, *Taxodium mucronatum*
(10) Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*
(11) Coast Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*

MAP

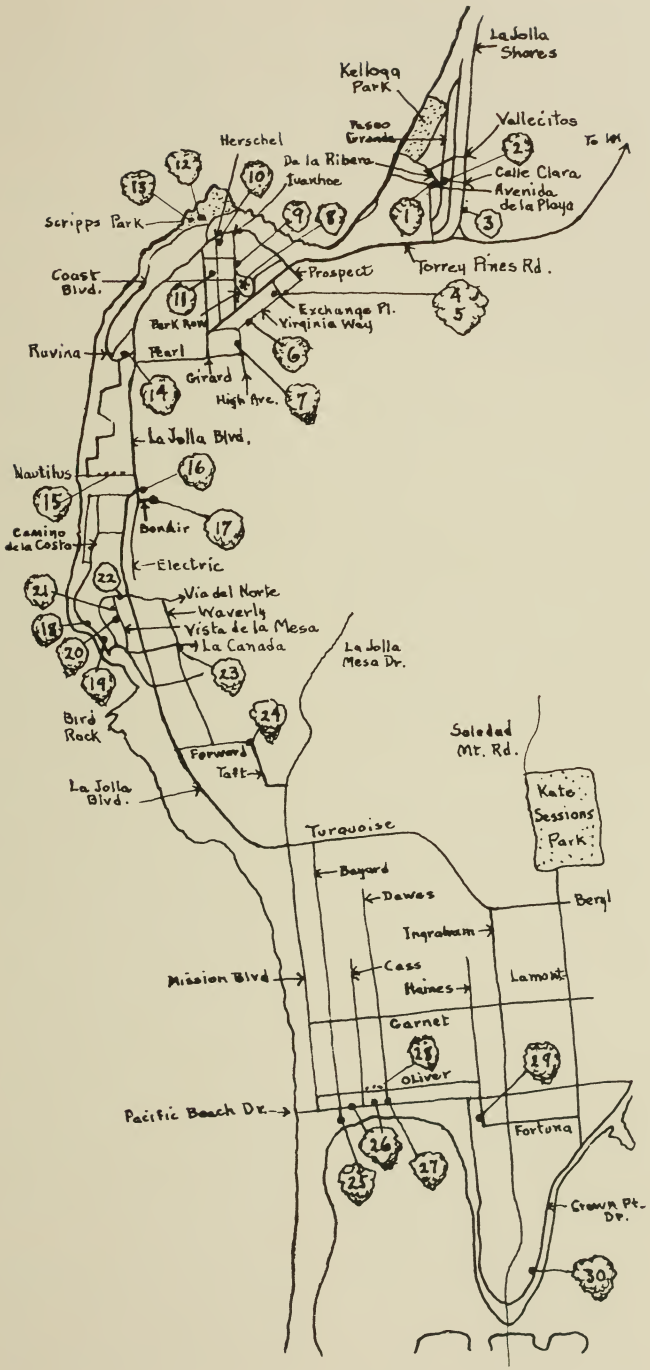
Follow the map carefully, referring to the Key for tree names. The sequence of numbers, in small pine cones, will lead you to the right street. For the correct address for that number see the Caravan list for La Jolla and Pacific Beach that follows.

LA JOLLA

1. (11). 2182 Avenida de la Ribera. Front garden of German restaurant.
2. (8). 8115 El Paseo Grande. One on each corner of an apartment.
3. (3). 7900 La Jolla Shores Dr. Row of young trees, west side of block.
4. (4). 1411 Virginia Way. At entrance to the south garden.
5. (8). SW. cor. Virginia Way and Exchange Pl. Young hedge.
6. (4). 1156 Virginia Way. Tree with double trunk.
7. (5). 7516 High Ave. Two trees.
8. (7). Park Row Circle. Five fine old trees and one (1).
9. (2). 7949 Ivanhoe. Old tree.
10. (1). 1188 Prospect. Opposite the end of Ivanhoe.
11. (7). Herschel and Silverado parking lot. Very old specimen.
12. (5). Front corner of Scripps Park. Fantastic trees, by marker.
13. (7). Wind-torn specimen on skyline beyond above trees.
14. (1). 454 Ravina. Behind a wall, shows cones well.
15. (7). 300-400 Nautilus. Row each side of street.
16. (3). East side of point where Electric Ave. begins.
17. (1). 523 Bon Air St. Well grown specimen with huge trunk.
18. (1). 6211 Camino de la Costa. Pruned to fit bank.
19. (1). 6026 Camino de la Costa. Adapted to garage entrance.
20. (1). 6131 Vista de la Mesa. Large full specimen.
21. (4). 6169 Vista de la Mesa. Two trees and several next door.
22. (3). 380 Via del Norte. Six trees in street planting, pruned high.
23. (5). 648 Waverly and La Canada. Three large trees. One (2)
24. (2). 778 Forward, cor. Taft. Two very fine bold trees.

PACIFIC BEACH

25. (1). 4005 Bayard. Druid specimen, end of street near bay.
26. (2). 911 Pacific Beach Dr. Two windblown trees, almost prostrate.
26. (2). 1000 Pacific Beach Dr. Street planting north side of block.



27. (7). 1102 Pacific Beach Dr. Old specimen on corner.
28. (2). 900-1000 Oliver Ave. Street planting on both sides.
29. (1). 4065 Haines, near Fortuna. Large and stately.
30. (5). 3334 Crown Point Dr. Thrives in salt air.

(6), (9) and (10) not found on this tour.

(End Coast Tour)

PENINSULA AREA TOUR

OCEAN BEACH

Start Peninsula Area Tour near end of West Point Loma Blvd. at

(7) 4600, 4700 Green St., mature trees both sides of blocks. Turn rt. on Froude, left on Narragansett to

(1), (4) 4428 Narragansett Ave. Turn rt. on Guizot, rt. on Granger.

(1) 4508 Granger, very large, also good (5) Left on Froude, left to

(2) 4510 Alhambra, old specimen.

(5) 4423 Alhambra, two fine trees. Left on Novara to Trieste.

(1) Large tree on cor. of Trieste, below Thursday Club. Turn right on Santa Barbara past

(4) 1085 Moana Dr., fine small tree on corner. Turn rt. on Catalina.

POINT LOMA

(7) Hill St. cor. Catalina, very large. Turn rt. uphill on Talbot.

(1) Many fine trees both sides of Talbot. Turn left to

(4) 962 Tarento, tree with double trunk, others near. Return to

(8) Catalina and Talbot, excellent row on west facade of market. Turn left off Catalina to

(7) 3600 Rosecroft Lane. Left to

(7) 510, 678 Silvergate, fine old stands. Rt. on Dupont, left on Gage Dr. right up to Bangor.

(6) 3351 Lucinda, SE. cor. of Bangor, excellent tall specimen. Turn rt. down Harbor View Dr., left on Talbot, Rosecrans and Xenophon.

LOMA PORTAL

(2) 3243 Xenophon. Turn left on Willow to

(5) 406 Whittier. Return to Willow to

(2) Cor. Zola and Willow. Large tree. Left on Elliott across Chatsworth.

(2) 3646, 3640, 3636 Elliott, near Narcissus. Handsome well-pruned trees.

(7) 3733 Elliott, large trunk, fine high spread. Turn right past Lotus, left on Amaryllis.

(11) 3701 Amaryllis, fair shape.

(1) 3620 Amaryllis, very large. Rt.

on Oleander, rt. to

(3) 3637 Hyacinth Dr., two enormous trees. Left on Chatsworth, rt. on James (left on Evergreen to

(9) 2932 Evergreen, very tall slender tree. Rt. on Lytton to

(11) 3104 Lytton, fine small tree in lawn, many trunks.

MISSION HILLS

Start tour in Presidio Park.

(3) Large group in upper park near low west wall, old trees pruned high.

(5) Large specimen (see cut) in the middle on the west edge of the "Bowl."

(4) Fine stand in and around lower "Bowl" near picnic tables.

(9) Can be seen from lower loop of the "Bowl" beyond large eucalyptus tree, near picnic tables. For a closer look take downhill path to the right. (See cut)

(11) On hill east of this same path is a planting of Coast Redwoods. Two stronger looking trees are Sierra Redwoods. Up Presidio Dr., turn left at Ampudia to

(2) 2344 Fort Stockton, fine large tree. Go ahead to Pine St. Turn rt. to

(4) 2212 Pine St., and

(6) 2218 Pine St. Finest specimen in town. Turn rt. on Witherby, left on Sunset Blvd. to

(9) 3055 Sunset, two fine specimens on lawn. (See cut and description)

(5) Large tree on corner of above lot.

(8) 1845 Sunset Blvd., old loppy tree. Turn left on Randolph to

(10) 1432 Montecito Way, two trees similar to (9) but with larger cones. (See cut and description) Go right on Montecito to Ingalls, right to Lewis, left to

(8) 1219 Lewis St.

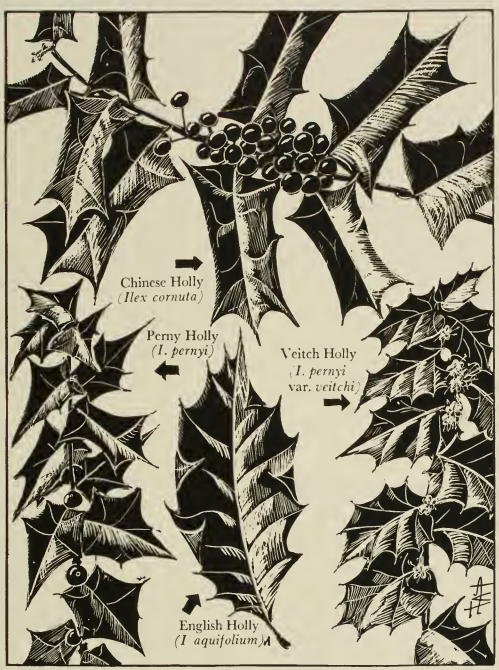
Aleppo Pine — Presidio Park

Canary Island Pine — 2212 Pine St.

Bald Cypress — 1432 Montecito Way

Montezuma Cypress — 3055 Sunset

'Tis the season to be jolly



With Holly, Toyon and Heavenly Bamboo, May Yours Be Colorful

Pen drawings by Dorothy Landon

Text by Alice Clark

THINK about it. Isn't winter in San Diego the most colorful time in the garden? Not the soft pastels of spring, but the striking warm bell tones of red and orange, with lots of strong greens.

If there has been no frost we go into the holidays with hibiscus and bougainvilleas still very gay, roses could stage a show and camellias stand out in beautiful color forms against their handsome foliage. Azaleas oblige with a fine winter preview of spring and that wonderful shrub, Calliandra, is waving big rose-colored silken balls at Santa. The hybrid Leptospermum, 'Ruby Glow', shows tinges of dark red up and down its billowing growth. Pink, lavender and coral-red bells of our so-called heather will be ready for the New Year when white Chinese narcissus will scent the air. All these are but the backdrop of holiday color in San Diego.

The spotlight is on special plants too good to be disposed of in a mere sentence. Bear with me while I oil my typewriter; we have gardens to do and tales to tell!

RED

POINSETTIAS

There is no mantle of snow in our gardens to contrast with the lush green of the pines, but we do have something there to flaunt in the eyes of all beholders, the plants with the brightest of flaming reds, the envy of all those in cold climates who cannot grow them — POINSETTIAS. Here that flower is almost a synonym for Christmas! Bushy or tall, as singles or in hedges, they raise their heads and sing out the season's greetings.

And well they might, for the poinsettia was brought across our borderland 140 years ago by Joel Roberts Poinsett, our first minister to Mexico. Later he grew cuttings in his estate in South Carolina. They found their way to an eastern nurseryman who determined that they were a new species of the Spurge family. He appended the descriptive adjective "most beautiful" to the plant and it went down in the records as *Euphorbia pulcherrima,* but we call it "Poinsettia" for the man who gave it to us.

Also from Mexico comes the legend of the little boy who had no other gift for the Virgin Mary save the stalks he picked from the green shrub that sheltered him from the hot sun, a grateful token from a loving heart. The next morning the green leaves on the tops of his plants had turned red, to become the finest offering in the church. From then on the shrub was called the "Flower of the Holy Night."

In the nursery trade, San Diego County is known all over the United States as the distribution source of poinsettias. Eastern florists do not have room under glass to carry them over. Each year they order rooted cuttings from the man who grows them along our coast. You have seen fields of these flaming beauties in the open. They are the stock plants for the cuttings. The rest of the work goes on under acres of covered areas. Sally Bancroft interviewed Paul Ecke for *California Garden* in 1950 when he had long been known as the "Poinsettia King." He has continued to expand and develop his business with new hybrids and new methods, that have brought even more reknown to the horticultural achievements and the prosperity of this county. All we can add to that is "O King, Paul Ecke, Live Forever."

ORANGE

BIRD OF PARADISE

A winter flower whose gaudy orange colors can almost compete with the red of Poinsettias is *Strelitzia regina.* So unreal are the bird-like aspects of its bloom that it looks as if it had just hopped out of Never-Never-Land. When you learn that it belongs to the Banana family you can at least see a leaf resemblance. Actually, the Bird of Paradise has been in our plant world a long time. It was introduced to Kew Gardens in 1773. The genus was named for Queen Charlotte of

England whose family, Mecklinberg-Strelitz, was a patron of botany. The species name honored the queen herself. It is found on rocky river banks in South America.

Strelitzias are outstanding for their unusual form and striking color combinations. Even the "neck" of the bird is suffused with sunset hues. When the perky cockade of blue and orange petals pops out of the long "beak," it is gay indeed. As many as eight more flowers may continue to unfold, if the old ones are removed. The Bird of Paradise is favored for its keeping and shipping qualities. Air-mailing these flowers from San Diego is a major horticultural business.

The Strelitzia is unusual in that both flower and leaf stalk rise directly from the crown. Divisions double themselves every year so they need plenty of room to spread. In California the flowers have to be hand-polinated. The thick white roots resent dividing. When necessary, digging is best done between June and August. Give the Bird of Paradise sunshine, rich soil, ample water and good drainage. When cutting the blooms take few leaves as new flowers form at their bases.

BERRY COLOR

CALIFORNIA PEPPER TREE

Thinking of ornamental berries? San Diego has them, from trees to ground covers. Skipping persimmons, guavas and pomegranates which are not exactly berries, but are certainly colorful holiday fruits, there are trees that are always thought of for their green beauty, plus an additional bonus of berries. According to Winifred Davidson, writing in this magazine in 1956, a sailor brought pepper tree seeds from Peru in 1831. He gave them to Father Petri of the San Luis Rey Mission where they were planted. Many grew but only one was still alive seven years ago. Pay it homage if it remains today, for, from the handful of seeds that sprouted there over 130 years ago, have come the patriarchs, properly called *Schinus molle,* but long known as "California Pepper Trees," despite their Peruvian origin.

Tourists always notice this tree. The gnarled trunks, the high rounding canopy of lacy leaves that gives such fine shade and the pearly bunches of old-rose berries are almost symbolic of this warm dry climate. Before there was any irrigation the pepper trees were among the few sturdy enough to survive heat and drought. They are not planted much anymore, partly due to their shallow roots and littering habits, but mainly because there is not enough space for these fine treasures. If you want to bring them back, for this and the next generation, insure a crop of berries by planting a male tree in the group, if there are no others in the vicinity. Bound together in a wide circle, spiraled with ribbon, pepper berries make handsome wreaths for muted color schemes.

California Pepper Tree

Brazilian Pepper Tree

BRAZILIAN PEPPER TREE

An ideal shade tree for small gardens is the Brazilian Pepper, *Schinus terebinthifolia.* The dark leaves of this evergreen are perky instead of droopy and thick instead of scattered on the branches. It is inclined to have a short trunk. Prune it up as it grows. It is a clean tree that will grow in a lawn, but it is a bit more tender than the California variety. The bunches of shining red berries are perfect for Christmas arrangements, along with their fine-cut leaves. They lend themselves for banquet or dinner tables as they hold up well without water.

STRAWBERRY TREE

Now is the time to look for *Arbutus unedo,* a small tree or large shrub that produces full clusters of small, pearly, vase-shaped flowers right next to round rough red and orange fruits, so much like strawberries you must take a close-up look. Handsome evergreen leaves and interesting brownish-red trunks and boughs make this an outstanding ornamental, especially at this season. It is not too particular as to soil or exposure.

Toyon

TOYON, CALIFORNIA HOLLY

A small tree that once covered the hills before the bulldozers came is still a popular native for gardens where it can have good drainage and only moderate water. There is a large spectacular specimen inside the fence of a colonial home on the southwest corner of Third and Walnut in San Diego. Notched leaves that are not prickly suggest holly. Brilliant trusses of red berries ripen in the fall and last on through Christmas if the birds are willing. The name, *Heteromeles arbutifolia,* has a musical sound if you trip it off the tongue lightly.

HOLLY

The English Holly, *Ilex aquifolium,* grows as a tree in the north and east, but it is not a good performer here. It needs rain and deep soil. If you prefer this old favorite many of its hybrids do well in our climate. 'Boulder

Holly

Creek' is a good one with giant glossy dark green leaves that are not so prickly. It has an abundance of berries.

The spiny Chinese Holly, *Ilex cornuta,* is splendid in the warm interior country. Better for San Diego is one of its varieties called 'Burford Holly', with spineless round deep green leaves. A fairly fast grower that takes the shade, it plays to the gallery as a prolific bearer of large bright red berries. Self-pollinating too.

Brighten up the entrance with potted specimens. There is a new hybrid made to order for this. Ask for 'Brilliant', *Ilex aquipernyi.* The leaves, small and hollylike but not sharp, are on graceful boughs that hide the containers. In a year's time gallon sizes will produce quantities of berries on handsome bushes to give the patio a lift. There are dozens of holly types

Mistletoe

in the nurseries. See them all and choose for yourself.

MISTLETOE

Many of the old ranches in the back country have room for large old sycamores which host great clusters of popular Mistletoe. The leaves of this Mistletoe are larger and the berries smaller than those on the oaks in the mountains. The white berries may not be a color, but they certainly bring back colorful memories and customs. Yes, we have Mistletoe.

PYRACANTHA

Sometimes called Firethorns, the Pyracanthas, along with the Toyons, belong to the branch of the rose family that is known for its berries rather than its flowers. Unfortunately they also have thorns. Best in sun, Pyracanthas are easy to grow. There are types to meet all demands. To be sure of a splash of berry color to meet the holidays plant the variety 'Rosedale' that turns red early. It is fine along a wall where it has room to grow naturally, up and out. If you have the patience to keep its great arching branches in bounds, this Pyracantha will lend itself as an espalier against a fence or on a trellis in a planter. 'Graberi' colors up a little later but its huge clusters of large berries among handsome leaves made it a fast seller. Prune these bushes by cutting when in berry, leaving the young branches for spring bloom and another year's crop. When in flower these plants are equally spectacular. Not guaranteed to be red by Christmas, but stunning along steps on a banked approach, or as a general ground cover, are the prostrate Pyracanthas, 'Walderi' and 'Santa Cruz.' If you are buying these berried plants look "you know where" for many more kinds.

COTONEASTERS

If you want to "string along" with a few more berries, there is another large rose-family group from which to choose. It is without thorns and frost resistant. *Cotoneaster panossa,* the Silverleaf C, a half-dormant type, is the loveliest of the tall group whose arching branches like to silhouette fountain-wise against a light high wall. Its grayish foliage and coral berries heighten this effect. To maintain this feeling, prune it only at the base. 'Parney Cotoneaster' has the same spreading habit but is not as tall. The deep green leaves, two inches long, are interspersed with clusters of lasting brilliant red berries. Good for cutting too.

Cotoneaster horizontalis, Rock C., is a ground cover with fan-like sprays of small gray-green leaves that may curve up to three feet. It is so closely covered with red berries that you hardly miss the leaves in its short dormant period. The Necklace Cotoneaster, *C. decora,* is a spreading evergreen shrub, a foot or more high, with small showy green leaves and large red berries. Bearberry Cotoneaster, *C. dammeri,* is a flat evergreen creeper to six inches high. It roots as it spreads and seems to flow around obstacles. Berries are bright red. All these plants and others similar, take ordinary soil, little care, full sun and some wind.

HEAVENLY BAMBOO

Nandina domestica seems the epitome of grace. It adorns any situation in which it is placed. The tall vertical lines of its cane-like stems with some fluffy side growth, compliment the lines of a house or enhance a container. The fine much-divided leaves are like flowers themselves when they turn bronze red with cold or are flushed with cream and pink in the spring. As if all this airy charm were not enough, Nandina bursts forth in twelve-inch racemes of small pinky-white blooms as evanescent as a cloud.

Nandina, Heavenly Bamboo

They, in turn, become the rose-red berries shown in the sketch. When the berries fall there still remain lovely skeletal stems, etched brown, much sought for dry compositions. Arrangers never tire of using tall stalks of Nandinas and no wonder, as they even develop new leaves in water.

Several plants in a group will mean more berries. In warm climates give partial shade. Feed and water well. Try to keep them a bit on the acid side. Cut stems to the ground as they age, to promote new growth. Nandina takes some frost. This plant should really be called 'Heavenly Delight'.

Fire and . . .

By Seward T. Besemer

Farm Adviser

Photos by the Los Angeles Fire Department

EROSION and fire control on slopes must be considered together even though one has to do primarily with too much water, the other with a lack of water!

There was a time when erosion control was practiced mostly by hillside farmers. But suddenly we have arrived in an era where hills are being cut up, chopped off, and sliced into for home sites, parking areas, and highways. Now almost everyone needs to be concerned with erosion control.

In a way, fire control has similar aspects to the erosion trend. Our fore-

. . . water on your hillside can cause erosion unless . . .

fathers settled mostly in the valleys and basins. Nature took care of the erosion problems on the slopes surrounding. Fires occasionally burned off these areas but were not of much concern since most of the habitable property was below in the valleys. Now we often place the most expensive homes and other developments on the hillsides with brush up to the picture windows and cantilever homes out over the brush on a canyon rim—sort of "blocking the chimney," so to speak.

Unfortunately, man, today as through much of history, needs a few warnings about impending disaster. It usually takes a crisis or a major calamity to start the wheels of action. The Bel Air-Los Angeles fire of 1961 is such an example. It was certainly not the greatest brush fire of all time but probably the most costly. Its effect impressed in the minds of many the need for a greater public awareness of the dual problem of growing something on steep slopes for erosion control and beauty, but also the danger of overgrown plantings on the same slopes.

Information on erosion and fire control was available prior to the Bel Air fire. However, the vivid experience spurred the rapid development of more detailed information than ever before. Many agencies are now working to continue the increase of erosion and fire control methods.

Erosion and fire work in a vicious cycle. Sometimes we must start, as nature does, with bare earth—seldom a problem if level—but tilted to 45 degrees or greater, a problem exists, unless the slope is solid rock! If there is any slight amount of soil or a few cracks in the rock, Mother Nature will have some plant life established before long. Often we want to speed up her efforts by planting the slope. Either way, in a year or so the erosion problem may be solved, more or less indefinitely. A few more years go by and the plant growth becomes so dense that a fire hazard now exists. We assume the planting burns off—and so we are back where we started, an erosion problem again!

This vicious cycle of erosion and fire problems on slopes is further compounded by our arid climate. If irrigation is unavailable we must rely on winter rains to establish plant growth. If too hard and too much, the rains defeat us at the start by eroding a slope before resistance is created. On the other hand, our long drought season prepares a slope planting for fire to burn easily, leaving the slope bare for winter.

Peculiar things happen in this cycle of bare slopes, plant cover, fire, and bare slopes again. In the Bel Air fire several homes miraculously escaped the fire only to be buried by mud slides shortly afterward when heavy rains followed on the barren slopes!

Many useful observations were made during and after the Bel Air fire. This was no ordinary brush fire—it was a fire storm. It burned so hot, traveled so fast, spread in so many directions that essentially man was incapable of controlling it. More and wider firebreaks, more water and more water pressure would not have stopped it much sooner.

The most important point learned here which can be applied in future situations is NOT TO ALLOW A PLACE FOR FIRE TO START IN THE FIRST PLACE!

"Not allowing a place for fire to start in the first place" does not preclude that an area must be kept barren of vegetation. We still need erosion control and BEAUTY; so we have a dual problem to solve. It requires careful planning, sufficient money and effort to get the job done right, and continuous attention to maintain the area to best resist fire.

There are four general types of slopes, based on soil conditions. It is important to recognize the soil conditions in order to apply the best erosion control treatment.

1—Solid rock or highly cemented and resistant to erosion:

This type needs no erosion control planting and rarely can enough plants become established to create a fire hazard.

Beauty is often desired but plant establishment is difficult. We must rely on draping type plants which are planted on the slope rim. Several vines such as bougainvillea and ivy will work. Also some plants placed at the slope base will climb upward. Again, ivy will often work or such attachers as Creeping Fig. In desperation, on solid slopes it may be possible to insert steel pins to support shelves of soil for planting. Also, plant holes could be drilled in the hard slope and provided with drainage pipes at the bottom of the hole to the slope facing. These holes could be filled with soil and planted.

2—Well-compacted slope but surface soil erodes easily to cut gulleys:

This type of slope may be quite non-erodable beneath but requires surface protection to retain top soil. The solution is to establish a dense groundcover to shed water rapidly. Grasses, such as rye, and small-leaf ice plants, baccharis, and birdsfoot trefoil are good for this purpose. Some irrigation is usually necessary to maintain good plant coverage.

We should avoid plants, such as coarse iceplant, which become heavy and pull themselves and soil down the slope. Also, plants which produce a small volume of fuel will give greater fire retardance.

3—A well-compacted fill slope or cut where loose areas below would allow large pockets of soil to slip away:

This type slope requires maximum planting for adequate erosion control. Three groups of plants are needed:

Grasses and/or ground covers to shed water quickly and prevent cutting of surface soil.

Shrubs with penetrating root systems to bind the soil 12 to 18 inches deep.

Trees with roots which penetrate and reinforce deep soil perhaps several feet down.

Irrigation is mandatory in Southern California to initiate a planting of most ground covers, shrubs and trees. With careful selection of natives or other drought-resistant species, irrigation can be greatly reduced or sometimes eliminated once the plants are well established. There are few plants which will grow without irrigation in our arid climate and not produce a fire hazard.

4—"Arrowheads" and slipping slopes:

This type is usually due to a natural condition. Major earth movements or unusual deep underlying soil conditions cause a whole portion of a slope to slip away at once. Even Mother Nature has no protection against this situation. At present, man has no positive solution for major slippage.

Ordinance 618 administered by the Building and Safety Department of the City of Los Angeles was initiated in 1961. Known as the "Green Hills" law, it requires every excavated or filled slope to be planted and irrigated. This requirement is binding since it is included in the issuance of a building permit.

The engineering specifications of cut and filled slopes have been in force much longer than Ordinance 618. However, Ordinance 618 goes further by requiring installation of an irrigation system and specifies the types of plants to be used. Large slopes must have a complete treatment of seeded grass mixes or ground covers, shrubs and small trees all at specified plant spacings. Smaller slopes may not require trees. In addition to establishing the slope planting there are requirements for maintenance by the developer until the eventual owners assume responsibility.

The City of San Diego does not have as complete a package as Ordinance 618 of Los Angeles. San Diego does specify engineering requirements for slopes according to soil conditions and has lists of approved groundcovers, shrubs and trees for planting. Apparently, irrigation and planting are not enforceable under the building permit.

As previously mentioned, once a successful erosion control planting is achieved on a slope, a potential fire hazard may have been created. In many cases man moves hillside areas which are already covered with native brush. A dense stand of native growth which becomes tinder-dry during our long drought period is a much more dangerous fire hazard than an irrigated man-created planting.

Clearing natural brush covers can be done in various ways. A bulldozer is perhaps the easiest but leaves the soil most susceptible to erosion. Removal of brush by hand is less disturbing to the soil. Once the brush is removed, it must be disposed of. It can be gathered in small piles for burning during the winter if local fire ordinances permit. It can be hauled to the dump or buried in gullies or bulldozed into pits.

Chemicals such as 2-4-D, and 2-45-T, ammate, or amitrole are useful for controlling regrowth of brush.

It is recommended that the removal of all brush and trash be complete for 30 feet around the homesite. More is better. For at least 70 feet all brush should be removed except occasional trimmed-up specimen plants. Keep weeds and grass from growing higher than 18 inches.

Since the Bel Air fire, there has been a concerted effort to select certain plants for fire resistance. The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum have proven a few plants to date. Two varieties of rock rose, *Cistus ladniferous and Cistus villosus,* have resisted 1100-degree burning tests. A salt bush, *Atriplex,* and *yerba santa* also resist fire well.

Other plants, although not as fire resistant as those above, offer some definite fire retardance. These include Brazilian and California pepper trees, oleanders, myoporum, and iceplant. Most of the plants mentioned above can be grown with little or no irrigation. Many cacti and succulent plants also fit in this category.

With the exception of groves of certain cleanly maintained trees and succulent ground covers, unwatered landscapes increase the fire risk. Eucalyptus trees and bamboo, for example, create fire hazards with their heavy leaf and bark litter. Unwatered ground covers sometimes carry fire when they contain masses of dead materials and weeds. Chaparral is especially dangerous when it is in a canyon or other location below a house, so that a chimney effect is created. In such a location, a fire may need no wind, since it creates its own draft.

In the Los Angeles fires, well-pruned, cleanly maintained irrigated landscapes held up remarkably well. Ground covers, especially succulents, did not carry fire. However, maintenance had an important influence. For instance, young plantings of Algerian Ivy were often scorched or wilted by heat, but did not burn or carry fire if properly thinned. Ivy geraniums soon dried out and burned.

Where they had been irrigated, many species of pines, junipers, cedars, and other conifers did not ignite and burn even though they were killed by fire. Palms are particularly resistant, although the "skirts" of old leaves burned readily. These should be removed each season.

The best fire protection is a watered landscape, kept clean of litter and dead growth, with plenty of space between pruned shrubs and trees, and succulent ground covers which produce low amounts of fuel. This combination of proper planting, irrigation, and maintenance offers the best erosion control and fire resistance that can be achieved together.

JUST REMEMBER

Fish Every Friday For Healthier Azaleas

By Janet Richards

IF you have ever said, "I wish I could grow azaleas," and really meant it, this is for you. Half the problem is solved in that you want to grow them.

It is important to want to grow a plant. For example, I think roses are beautiful. But I have very definite reservations about that armored stem upon which they bloom. I object to being stabbed by the plant I'm trying to feed. Therefore, I'm not apt to grow a rose well, but as always delighted to see them well grow in another's garden.

If you already grow fuchsias, tuberous begonias, or ferns, you have the climate which permits azaleas. Otherwise, if you're not endowed with a large spreading tree, create a lath area or use the north and east side of a building or fence. Look for the possibility of shaping an open lath house by lath roofing to the north side of a fence. This protects the plants from sun and keeps them in view.

Azaleas bloom a kind of busting-out-all-over Fourth of July explosion of color in the spring. There's nothing like the assurance of a garden which marks the season. It underwrites the calendar.

About varieties, Hortus lists all azaleas as rhododendron. He remarks that "gardeners habitually keep the azaleas separate." Within our experience in Southern California, I suspect that we are inclined to feel that any interested gardener sought to know the difference between a rhododendron and an azalea. But the problem is a botanical one and when species from Tibet, Assam, Burma, China, or New Guinea are compared to those from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Oregon, or California, the differences are not quite so "obvious."

However, keeping very close to home and the village nursery, we can find there in the spring an abundance of plants in bloom, each well labeled with an easy-calling name. Among them there are Albert and Elizabeth, Pink Pearl, Coral Bells, Hexe, and Copperman.

By selection within the varieties, it is possible, with the cooperation of the weather, to have scattered bloom throughout the fall. When not in bloom, the plants can be encouraged to lovely natural forms. In this respect, start with small plants and grow them to suit.

The deciduous azaleas are the natives (which see locally on the stream edges at Cuyamaca or at San Bernardino National Forest in the late spring). From the natives, hybrids are now being developed which will increase the list of plants capable of taking more sun.

A prime point of discussion is whether to plant azaleas in the ground or in a container. Having found a shady place, there are a few considerations. If you plant in the ground, the soil must be acid and the drainage good. It is persistently recommended that you dig a very over-sized hole and fill it with pure peat, then plant. Azaleas like to be moist but they can't stand in water. A raised bed filled with peat is more likely to succeed in the San Diego area.

There is the matter of the quality of the water, too. In Northern California the frequent rains keep salts from accumulating in the soil by washing them away. Here, the Colorado water being highly alkaline and the rain negligible, salts accumulate and azaleas protest.

I have seen some very handsome, well grown azaleas in the ground, but I am inclined to believe that the percentage of success is greater when they are planted in containers.

A redwood or cedar box make excellent containers. A plant from a gallon can can go into an eight-inch square box. The box needs to be well proportioned to the plant.

An azalea, planted in a container well packed with pure peat and set where it is protected from the sun, is on its way if you will water and feed it and keep a watchful eye.

When watering, fill the container well and then wash the leaves briskly with a sharp hard spray. This will knock off dead leaves and little creatures which may have come to light. Even when the plant is in bloom, a hard spray knocks out faded blooms.

Feeding a plant is rather like trying to remember to take pills. We forget. We need, I think, to find some device to remind us. If the hired gardener comes on Monday, you assign him a feeding schedule and he probably will keep it. But if you do your own, I offer my device. After years of trying to post feeding dates and then losing the record sheet, or trying to remember to do it on the first and fifteenth of the month to find I didn't know the date, I discovered I could control two problems with one adage: Fish every Friday.

Frank Quintana's articles, in this magazine, on the pH of soil helped me realize that we have a constant problem in trying to grow acid-loving plants in an alkaline situation—the water keeps knocking the acidity down.

Among the acid fertilizers, there is fish emulsion. Very simply, Friday being fish day, each Friday I put a little fish and lots of water in the jar which connects to the spray gun attachment of the hose and fill each container thoroughly.

I think that I am able to maintain

a higher and more constant level of acidity than if I did it less often.

I know that the azaleas are greener, the blooms are better, and the growth is strong.

About the watchful eye, the day you walk out and find the least little sign of rust or scale or yellowing leaves, don't just stand there. Do something!

Belle Sumner Angier in her "Garden Book of California" (Paul Elder, S.F. 1906) says "Two-thirds of the evils that afflict our gardens come from neglect." At a time when Rachel Carson has provoked considerable thinking about the use of insecticides, it is delightful to come upon a treatment for scale which Angier recommends: "Take one part slightly sour milk, two parts of kerosene, beat with an egg-beater until a white jelly shows that the two liquids are united. Use one part of jelly to 18 to 20 parts of water and spray thoroughly every part of your plant."

"Few of the low forms of life that attack our house and garden plants can survive a good scrubbing or shower bath." She used a spray of ordinary soap suds for mealy bug.

Sounds worth trying.

Don't overlook the possibility of extending your enjoyment of the azaleas you grow, by using them in the house for a few days. Pick up a plant and set it where you might ordinarily use a large bouquet.

Lovely azaleas to you . . .

A Calendar of Care

• ROSES

*This a busy time

*Pruning best in January

*Easy-to-follow rules

*Bare root planting hints

JANUARY and February are months of activity in the rose garden. It is not possible to go into great detail here so the barest essentials must suffice. Two jobs must be done now—pruning and bare-root planting. Established roses must be pruned for several good reasons: 1) to clean the bushes of old and unwanted wood, 2) to give the bushes a fresh start, 3) to get fresh vigorous blooms for the Spring season, and 4) to have an opportunity to get ahead of fungus diseases.

Pruning is best done about the last week in January, give or take a week or so. Those who want blooms at their peak for the Spring rose shows count back about 60 to 90 days depending upon the variety and pruning severity. Timing is best learned by experience and advice as to variety is always tempered by a number of variables, one of which, often neglected, is vigor. A tall vigorous fast growing bush is apt to get pruned back most severely and will take longer to resume blooming—Tropicana being a good example. A vigorous but shorter bush will not be pruned back so much and will consequently bloom sooner. Some varieties resent hard pruning and will sulk for a while, for example, High Esteem and Girona. But don't worry about it—if you prune 90 days before you want a lot of blooms, you will in general have them.

Rules to follow are: 1) use sharp clean tools, 2) shorten canes to about two-thirds average height of the bush, 3) if possible, end up with three or four good vigorous canes arranged in a vase shape with open center, 4) remove canes flush with the bud union and take the older ones first, 5) re-

Leo Volz
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Editor: Don West

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of December, 1963.

Notary Public Ruth L. Strob

move all side growth and leaves, 6) remove any growth *below* the bud union—these are suckers and, 7) paint all cut ends with an asphalt emulsion such as Treeheal.

Your rose bush is no older than the oldest cane. The belief that a bush will not live and flourish longer than about 10 years has no basis in fact if you learn how to prune properly. As you prune, uncover each bush down to the crown. If there is a gall, which fortunately doesn't happen very often, this can be removed by breaking off with the fingers and the wound covered with asphalt emulsion. Climbing hybrid teas can be shortened now to keep within bounds and thinned to 2 or 3 newer canes. Side shoots are shortened to 2 or 3 eyes and the remaining canes trained where they are supposed to go.

The more horizontal is each cane, the more floriferous will be the new growth. Old fashioned climbers, if you have any, are best pruned after the spring flowering, since they do not bloom from new wood. When pruned, they are thinned just as climbing hybrid teas except that it is, in general, better to remove side shoots. Completely successful pruning is something of an art and you are advised to obtain and read the very good booklet on the subject written by "Doc" Thompson. You are probably aware that every pruning cut except at the bud union should be a clean slanting cut just above an eye with the upper part of the slant directly above the eye. The bud should be selected so as to point in the direction you want the new growth to go.

After the roses are pruned, old mulch and leaves should be removed from the ground and burned or hauled away. Then comes the question as to whether or not to apply a dormant spray. I certainly believe in taking this opportunity to spray with insecticides and fungicides but I believe ordinary recommended strengths should be used instead of the so-called dormant spray strengths. Dormant strengths are probably satisfactory for areas where the bushes are really dormant when pruned, but in Southern California, new buds are already swelling, some are growing and most dormant sprays, especially the oily variety, are likely to blast the new growth.

About the only mulch locally available in quantity and at a reasonable cost is wood shavings. This makes a very satisfactory mulch and should be applied to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. As cellulose disintegrates, it absorbs nitrogen, so that additional nitrogen should be applied throughout the year to counteract this effect. Although I have never tried it, it sounds like a good idea to spread several thicknesses of wet newspapers on the ground prior to applying the mulch. Weed control should be improved. The use of cheap agricultural weed control ground covers such as plastic sheet and oil emulsions are still too experimental for my endorsement for home rose gardens.

Much has been written in this column on the subject of planting bare-root roses. Be careful to buy good number one plants from a reputable nursery where the roots have never been allowed to dry out. Plant according to directions you can find anywhere. Personal cautions and preferences peculiar to this sub-tropical climate are 1) the site should have adequate drainage, 2) do not bury manure, grass clods or any undecayed organic material in close proximity to the roots, 3) just cover the root crown in planting but keep the bud union well above the soil level, 4) do not allow roots to dry out before planting but on the other hand do not allow to remain covered with water longer than overnight, 5) plant as soon as possible after purchasing, 6) press soil around roots with the hands—do not tamp with the feet—firm but not crushing contact with roots is preferred, and 7) don't buy bare-root roses which have sprouted if you can avoid it.

The holiday season leads to the observation that for your gardening friends and relatives, a new rose bush or two would be a very welcome gift indeed. Or what about a membership in the San Diego Rose Society and/or the American Rose Society. Another always welcome gift is a nice new sharp pruning shears or "secateur" as our British cousins call them.

Donald A. Wilson
San Diego Rose Society

● DAHLIAS

***The catalog season**

***Dig into soil problems**

***Plot your planting**

***Plant care tips**

THIS is the off season for the dahlia hobbyist. If he saves his roots from year to year they are in storage, packed in vermiculite in cartons, or saved by

some other method safely, he hopes, until another planting season rolls around.

And more than likely he has written to one or more specializing dahlia suppliers to request the catalogs listing new and old varieties which he would like to add to his garden next spring. If he didn't have the addresses, he would look in the garden magazines for listings.

About this time of year he would be planning his garden on paper, deciding the types, sizes and colors of the varieties he would like to have. In addition to buying from specialists or the neighborhood nurseries, he would be seeking out other growers and arranging for swaps.

Like all avid gardeners, the dahlia grower would be doing a lot of reading about his favorite flower and how to make it grow better. A sample of this dahlia lore might include some of the following:

Soil—Dahlias prefer a sandy loam, but do very well in either sandy soil or clay and adobe if the beds are conditioned with a hearty helping of humus. A neutral Pf is recommended. Prepare the beds, preferably in the fall or early spring by spading in dairy fertilizer to the depth of the spade. Turn the soil two or three times before planting.

Planting—Along the coast, dahlia roots may be planted from mid-March for late June blooms, to early June for a blooming season starting in early September. Dahlia seeds do best when planted in flats indoors the latter part of February on through March and until mid-April. Seedlings should be transferred to pots when the plants form one pair of leaves, and into the garden after three or four sets of leaves have developed. Be sure to plant dahlia roots so they lay flat, with eye or sprout up. Plant six inches deep in loam or heavy soil, and a couple of inches deeper if in sandy soil.

Watering—The ground should be moist but not wet until the sprout comes up and shows a pair of leaves. From then on water when the top of the soil is dry—normally about once each five to seven days. Beginning with the forming of buds water deeply but on about the same schedule. Dahlia roots will rot out in soil that is kept wet. Don't permit water to stand around the plants.

Insects—Dahlias are best when kept free of insects. The way to accomplish that is to prevent infestation by the pests. Spray as soon as the plants come up, using DDT and malathion to discourage thrips, early aphids, and

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leaf miners. Adopt a spraying schedule of about once a week to every eight or 10 days. After the first couple of sprayings with DDT, malathion will keep the garden clean. As double insurance against leaf chewers, some dahlia growers add arsenate of lead to the malathion—a tablespoon or so to each gallon of insecticide—and beginning in July, kelthane to discourage red spiders.

Plant Care—Pinch out the top of each plant when it develops three or four sets of leaves. For larger flowers, restrict the plants to four to six canes with one bloom to the cane. To have smaller and more plentiful flowers—pompons and miniatures—the plants should be pinched back by nipping off the tips of each cane or stem twice, as they appear. This makes the plants bushier. The larger varieties should be disbudded by removing the two outside buds from each cluster of three.

Fertilizing—Dahlia plants must be fed to make the flowers grow, but they should be given nitrogen only sparingly. A formula of 4-10-10 is recommended as best, but 5-12-10 or comparable is good. If you are confused by the numbers, just ask the nurseryman for bulb food. The main idea is to keep the plants growing to produce flowers, so if what you have accomplishes that, use it. Normally, in this area, dahlias respond to monthly feeding; for the best flowers, fertilizing each three weeks during June, July and the first half of August is recommended. After each application of about a cup for each plant, light cultivation with a three- or four-prong tool will make the fertilizer more available—especially if watering follows:

Cutting—Keep the plants blooming by cutting the flowers as they reach full bloom or as soon as they wilt. Best time to cut flowers for the house or for exhibition is late afternoon, or just at dusk. Plunge the stems into air-temperature water immediately; carry the pail right to the plant. The idea is to keep the stems as full of moisture as possible. If you don't carry the water into the garden, hold the cut flowers upside down until you can put them in water. Boiling or heating the stems of dahlias is a waste of time. Use of aspirin or sugar or whatever in the water doesn't extend the keeping time for the flowers. Just trim the ends of the stems and change the water each day and they will keep four days—or longer if they are the small varieties.

Digging the Roots — Don't worry about saving the roots until next November. Just keep the plants growing until then and perhaps *California Garden* will give you some advice on that subject at the time.

Larry Sisk
San Diego County
Dahlia Society

● FUCHSIAS

*Pruning awaits Spring

*Water hanging varieties

*Long-range planning

*Fine Christmas gifts

WITH the natural and necessary winter period of plant dormancy now upon us, the fuchsia fancier has more time for many activities connected with his hobby. The regular organic feeding of the plants will already have been reduced to perhaps once a month, and the watering to the safe comfortable minimum required for healthy plants, according to the weather.

If he is one of the increasing number of advocates of Autumn pruning, the plants will be cut back at the end of their final blooming to the proper shape for their type. Most plants may be cut back to three or four nodes of new growth, and baskets almost to the edge. If Spring pruning is preferred, it should never be done until all damage from frost is past (especially in low or cold areas) but, early enough to avoid bleeding, as the sap starts up again.

Container plants and hanging baskets, so rapidly gaining in importance and popularity, because of their mobility and versatility, may need water every two or three days, even in winter. A metal inner container conserves moisture best for them and proper location in partial shade will help, also.

During this rest period is a good time to work on a long-range garden plan, that may be developed and expanded as you wish. For instance, artistic arrangements for different types of fuchsias interspersed with ferns and colorful hanging baskets to brighten the shadowy places. Raised beds and planters offer excellent opportunities for displaying trailing varieties and are easy to care for. Perhaps, the most important improvement for the serious fuschia enthusiast is a lattice conserva-

tory or lath house that will provide plenty of light, as well as the necessary partial shade and, that may be equipped eventually with a fogging system to simulate as nearly as possible the jungle or rain-forest, natural habitat that the fuschia loves and thrives in.

This is also a good time to browse among good nurseries and hybridizers that specializes in fuchsias. You will be charmed by some of the startling new varieties such as Troubador, White Fairy, Bridal Veil, Red Shadow, Royal Velvet, Blue Butterfly, Flying Cloud, Whirl Away and many, many others.

Only yesterday, in Mill Valley by the Golden Gate, we saw a big Waltz Garden, Dusky Rose, hanging basket still loaded with almost tea cup size blooms and this is November.

As Christmas gifts for your garden friends what about White Fairy, Red Jacket and Whirl Away to go with Santa Claus and his reindeers?

Morrison W. Doty
San Diego Fuchsia Society

The interesting peony-formed Prof. Charles S. Sargent adds dash and sparkle to arrangements within and harmony to the landscape without. Its offspring, the brilliant "Fire Falls," is in the same category, but it is larger and has a richer tone of red.

A few of the snowy whites always remind you that "somewhere there are drifts of snow" and our old favorites, Alba Plena and the more dainty *C. Fimbriata,* yield of their artistic beauty for this season of the year.

For the spectacular, the high-built Joshua Youtz adds pleasant interest wherever placed, as do the more simple White Express and artistic Brides Bouquet.

Make a point of visiting your camellia shows this season. Study the old and new varieties as you study the rose or the iris. The range of colors and forms will surprise you from many angles.

An occasional spraying with some mix containing Lindane and Malathion is still necessary as the aphids appear with regularity on small buds and new growth regardless of the season. This will insure clean flowers and foliage.

Harvey F. Short
S.D. Camellia Society

Succulents Bring Color To Holiday Seasons

By Cactus Pappy

MANY new homes are landscaping with succulents this year because they take on such bright colors during the winter season.

They make a good splash in the yard, especially with rocks adding to their beauty. Always border your succulent beds with rock, then fill in with a good mixture of coarse sand, leaf mold or peat moss, with a generous sprinkling of superphosphate.

When I lived across the freeway from Disneyland in Anaheim, I had a border on either side of the walk leading to and from the door, and I planted some ghost plants, then added some jelly beans.

This is a small juicy plant that never gets over three or four inches tall, which in the winter takes on a red hue that makes each node or leaf look just like a shiny piece of jelly bean candy.

The ghost plant will take on a white

• CAMELLIAS

*True Christmas reds

*Pick gorgeous formal

*A reminder of snow drifts

*Visit your shows

"CAMELLIAS FOR GOOD CHEER!"

Why not add flavor to your decorations by combining these floral beauties with your Christmas greens, sprays of conifers, holly berries and a cone or two? Spotlight one or several of the camellia blooms in color tones of the true Christmas red or white ones in your favorite compote or tray.

Speaking of the true reds that flower early enough for the holiday season, only in the last few years has this been a reality. "Rose-reds" as *C. Matholiana,* Julia Drayton, or Red Daikagura, have always been the dominant colors. Now the fine, early-flowering "Clarice Carlton" is available, a large semi-double of clear red coloring and excellent substance. Size in this type lends itself to a dramatic arrangement.

A gorgeous formal, Alice Wood, approaches the early season, and while it is large, it rates highly as an exceptional corsage flower.

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look, as it has rose tipped leaves in summer, but in winter changes to almost white, which gives it its name. This planting caused a lot of comment, and many people walking to Disneyland stopped to take pictures of it.

Over the years I have grown hundreds of cacti and succulents, but in the past three years I have specialized in succulents only, especially the *Echeveria* family. Though not a large family, it has some very striking plants and the hybridizers are always coming up with some new variety. Professor Butterfield, a good friend of mine, who was formerly an instructor at Berkeley, two years ago gave me a new *Echeveria crenulata* called Ballerina and it has caused a lot of favorable comment.

It is a long-leafed variety with yellowish-green leaves tipped with a deep rosy color. The plant I have now is about 14 inches across and is much admired; in fact a writer-photographer of a neighboring newspaper recently came and made pictures of it and gave it a fine writeup.

Since the current issue emphasizes Christmas color, I should remind you of the Jade plant. My large one was in full bloom at Christmas time and loaded with so many pretty pink blossoms I used it as an outdoor Christmas tree. I used a string of blue and red beads, angel hair, and other small Christmas ornaments. To top it off I used red show card color, and tipped the end of each leaf with a splash of red.

I also had a large madonna in white. To make this arrangement, I used a large circular piece of plywood, painted it a flat black, then used the Madonna as the center piece. Around the base I placed the *echeverias* (hens and chickens), on which I placed a dab of glue on the tip of each leaf then sprinkled red and green glitter on the tips. A path was built leading up to it and on each side of the path I used small rocks that were painted coral with white crushed rocks to fill in the path. In the open side I placed a candle angel in red and white. This also made a nice center piece on a low table on the front porch.

The succulent family is a large one that ranges from the tiny to extremely large ones, so in using them for landscaping use the larger ones next to the building or back of the bed, graduating them downward in size toward the front of the bed. Colored crushed rock has been used both in white and green with nice effect to cover the beds.

Succulents being of a juicy nature are easy to freeze, but seem to make a comeback later. A sheet of plastic over them on cold nights will protect them against freezing. Here in the Southland we seldom have a hard freeze and the one last January was indeed unusual and rare.

Try a small bed of succulents and the joy they will give you will be rewarding to the point that you soon will have many more of them. Most all nurseries carry them in stock. There are also two Cactus Clubs here in San Diego County that are more than interesting and informative for those inclined to learn more about cacti and succulents.

There also are several large commercial growers in this locality. Simply decide what you want and start and if you are one bit creative you can work out many color schemes for decorating. Try the dish garden deal; it is an interesting project. Use coarse silica sand after planting the succulents in spagnum moss and vermiculite and they will add a bright spot in your living room.

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133 I, Chula Vista

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